

LITERARY NOTES.

The author of the novel, "A Domigod," lately published by the Harper's, is, it is reported, Mr. E. P. Jackson, a teacher in the Boston Latin School.

A new and revised edition of Mrs. Rose Terry Cooke's "Poems" is in the press of W. S. Gottheber. This is pleasant news, for there are many of Mrs. Cooke's verses which should not be forgotten, and it is not easy to carry even so sweet a music in one's memory alone.

The same firm is about to bring out translations of Professor Elbers' story, "The Bride of the Nile," and "Leop Roch," a romance by Galdos.

The question of a future existence is discussed in "Through the Gates of Gold," a book now passing through the Roberts press. It is said to be a well-known author who prefers that this work should remain an anonymous one. The theory of the book is that Heaven is a state rather than a place, and is to be attained by living mortal.

Archdeacon Farrar is writing for "Harper" a paper on "America's Share in Westminster Abbey."

Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson contributed an interesting bit of biography to a gorgeous MS. volume lately sold in Edinburgh for the benefit of the University Students' Union. Mr. Stevenson was an undergraduate at Edinburgh, but it is said of him that in the ordinary sense of the word he was never a student, for he seems to have looked in at the class-rooms when he happened to be passing that way or when the sky was threatening. Mr. Stevenson says there never was such a truant as himself, and, plainly, he does not regret it. He looks back with affection to Professor Kellogg's lectures; "but I cannot," he says, "say so much about Professor Blackie, for a good reason. Although I am a holder of a certificate of attendance in the Professor's own hand, I cannot remember to have been present in the Greek class above a dozen times. Professor Blackie was even kind enough to remark (more than once), while in the very act of writing the document above referred to, that he did not know my name. Indeed," Mr. Stevenson continues, "I denied myself many opportunities; acting upon an extensive and highly rational system of truancy, which cost me a great deal of trouble to put in exercise—perhaps as much as would have taught me Greek—and sent me forth into the world and the profession of letters with the poorest shadow of an education." Mr. Stevenson lauds the "stress of education." How many of his fellow-students, he says, has not sent to their "rearing-parents"! "I am sorry indeed, that I have no Greek, but I should be sorrier still if I were dead; nor do I know the name of that branch of knowledge which is worth acquiring at the price of a brain fever." Mr. Stevenson photographs himself as he was in his college days in these words, speaking of the changes in the University: "The chief and far the most lamentable change is the absence of a certain lean, idle, unpopular student, whose presence was for me the gut and heart of the whole matter; whose changing acceptance of evil, shivering on wet east-wind mornings, long journeys up to class, infinite yawning during lecture, and unquenchable gusto in the delights of truancy, made up the sunshine and shadow of my college life."

Mr. Robert Browning's contribution to the Edinburgh book is this "Spring Song":

Dawn, yellow and reds and reds!
Dawn, pink or gray, leaves, slate heads,
Dawn with the wind in the tulip beds!

There's sunshine scarcely a wind at all,
Disturbs not strayed grass and daisies small.
On a morning like this, a man will
Find and grasp my heart's bedfellow,
Dawn, you reds and whites and yellows!

Mr. Andrew Lang, like Mr. Stevenson, waxes auto-biographical, and makes a confession which will turn many dog-loving hearts against him. All his life, he says, he has had a secret, and last he lets it out. He does not like dogs. Sometime he pretends he does, and then it is the dogs that find him out. "I might be more tolerant of dogs," Mr. Lang explains, "if they were not in conspiracy to destroy my character." "Distrust," says Mr. Tupper, "or Mr. Edwin Arnold, or some other Eastern sage, 'the man who is disliked by dogs.' I am that man, and probably am therefore distrusted." "Dogs really are 'the best judges of character,' I tremble to think what mine must be." "It loves me, love my dog" is a truthful proverb, then like the Dutchmen defended by the biographer of Mrs. Aphra Behn, I am incapable of the tender and gallant passion." If Mr. Lang could, like Shelly, dip his pencil in the glow of earthquake and eclipses, he should consider these highly suitable vehicles for a study of the nuclear animal." Mr. Lang makes sad havoc of the story of Llewellyn's bold Gelert. First, he points out that Llewellyn, who knew the dog well, thought it would be more likely to kill the child than to save him. Therefore, says our author defiantly, "I would be the last to blame Llewellyn." He is not even content to leave the story here; but reluctantly points out that it is a Hindoo myth.

Mr. Henry James's impressions of Coquelin, in the forthcoming number of "The Century," will be accompanied by a portrait of the actor.

Mr. John Boyle O'Reilly's forthcoming book, "The Country with a Root," is supposed to be a study of the conditions of human existence, "his idea being that it is the rich who in this life obtain all the brightness, the sweetness, the freshness and the sunshine of existence, while the poorer classes are oppressed with the gloom, the shadows and the desolateness of poverty and degradation."

There is a rumor that "The Cosmopolitan," the magazine established at Rochester some months ago, will shortly be brought to this city, and published hereafter in this "literary centre." It deserves a welcome, for if not all that it might be as a periodical, it is steadily growing better. The current number has many admirable and interesting features.

Mr. Quaritch bought in London the other day a perfect copy of the first edition of Caxton's translation of "The Game and Playe of Chess." It was the first book of Caxton with a date, and is a volume of extraordinary rarity. Mr. Quaritch paid \$1,225 for it, and bought at the same time for \$1,225 a copy of John Breton's rare tract on the "Discovery of the North Part of Virginia."

Mr. Whittier is quoted as saying: "It's a great thing to own a little bit of the Lord's earth straight up to the heavens. A man feels better for it."

A "History of the New-York Academy of Sciences" is in preparation. It is to be handsomely illustrated.

In a paragraph concerning Mr. Froude's proposed literary examination of Cuba and slave system "The Pall Mall Gazette" says that "It is almost time that one of the Caribbeans who have indulged in such panegyrics of the benevolent whip should go and see that instrument in active operation."

A Bostonian sinner at Chicago poetry leads "The News," or that town, to declare that "the envy of Boston will not be permitted to interfere with the prosecution of the good work. Pegasus has come to Chicago, and he has come to stay. Neither the blue-grass region of the South, nor the boundless pastures of the Western border, nor the fragrant rows of old New-England shall tempt him from the home of his adoption. Here shall he remain, prancing up and down Michigan avenue at any gait he pleases, or ever and anon soaring to empyrean heights as the companion of our own lake breeze, he shall, after the fashion recommended by Macenna's poet-laureate, strike his head against the stars! So suever away, you Boston Therates; your only target will be celo!"

Her Otto von Raake says that the seventh volume of his father's "History" will not be the last publication from the literary remains of the historian. Besides a considerable number of smaller essays that Von Raake intended for publication, there are lectures delivered before King Maximilian of Bavaria, which were taken down in shorthand; also an autograph which, though unfinished, will certainly be published. It is at present difficult to say whether the "History of the World" will terminate with the seventh volume, or whether one of his competent pupils will succeed in continuing the history, at least down to the reformation.

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